



The Enchanted Forest and the Dove's Secret

Once upon a time, in a land of enchanting forests, lived a kind-hearted servant girl named Lily. She journeyed with her masters through a vast, shadowy forest when, suddenly, a band of robbers ambushed them. Everyone was captured, except for Lily, who hid behind a towering tree.

Lost and alone, Lily wept, fearing she might never escape the dense woods. As twilight approached, a miraculous sight caught her eye - a gentle white dove, glinting under the moonlight, approached her with a small golden key in its beak.

"See that grand tree over there?" cooed the dove. "Inside, a hidden lock awaits this key. There, you'll find nourishment to soothe your hunger."

Intrigued and hopeful, Lily discovered a dish of milk and fresh bread within the tree. Her heart filled with gratitude as she enjoyed the meal. As night fell, the dove returned, offering another golden key. "Unlock that tree," it whispered, "and find rest."

Lily did as told and found a cozy, white bed nestled inside the second tree. She slept peacefully, under the watchful eye of the stars.

Each morning, the dove brought a new key, revealing clothes of gold and jewels hidden within the trees. The forest, once a place of fear, became a haven for Lily, cared for by the mystical dove.

One day, the dove asked a favor of Lily. "In the heart of the forest lies a cottage, home to an old woman. Ignore her greetings and find a

room full of rings. Seek not the sparkling ones but a plain, simple ring." Lily, eager to help her feathered friend, agreed.

Arriving at the cottage, Lily encountered the old woman. Despite her attempts to engage with Lily, the girl remembered the dove's advice and proceeded to the room of rings. Amidst the glittering treasures, she spotted the old woman sneaking away with a birdcage. Inside, a small bird held the plain ring in its beak.

Lily grabbed the cage, retrieved the ring, and hurried back, expecting the dove. Instead, the tree she leaned against transformed into a handsome prince! He revealed that the old woman was a witch who had cursed him, and only the return of the ring could break the spell.

Liberated, the prince's kingdom rejoiced as their trees and animals, once under the witch's spell, returned to their true forms. The prince, grateful to Lily, asked for her hand in marriage. They returned to his kingdom, where they celebrated their love and lived happily ever after, with the white dove always seen soaring above their castle.